

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

(Collier)



ANNE MILGRAM
Attorney General

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
DAVID SZUCHMAN, Director

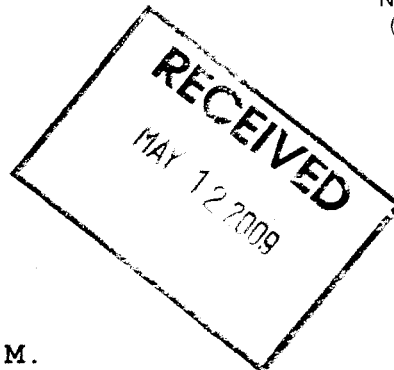
on this date of: 5-14-09

April 21, 2009

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45020
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6500

By Certified and Regular Mail

Karyn L. Collier, D.V.M.
Swedesboro Animal Hospital
392 Kings Highway
Woolwich Township, New Jersey 08085



Re: I/M/O KARYN L. ~~COLLIER~~, D.V.M.
Complaint Number: 07-068

Fischer

Offer of Settlement in Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding

Dear Dr. Collier:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information it received concerning your professional conduct following its consideration of a consumer complaint filed by Gregory M. Wolf. The complaint alleges, among other contentions, that you engaged in negligence regarding the treatment you rendered to his Dachshund, "Maggie," in July 2007.

Specifically, the information reviewed by the Board included, but is not limited to, the following documents:

1. A complaint filed, on or about September 4, 2007, by Gregory M. Wolf, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits;
2. A correspondence, dated September 11, 2007, from Karyn L. Collier, D.V.M., to the Board, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits; and

3. Medical records of "Maggie" Wolf.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you engaged in professional misconduct, as determined by the Board, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), in that you failed to provide proper supervision to unlicensed technicians in your practice.

The Board's review into this matter revealed Maggie was presented to Swedesboro Animal Hospital ("Hospital"), by her owner Gregory M. Wolf, on July 10, 2007 for a physical examination and vaccinations. At this visit, the dog was seen by Mark F. Magazu, D.V.M. The physical exam was unremarkable so the dog was given distemper and parvo vaccines. Mr. Wolf was advised at this first visit that the dog's second visit would be handled by technicians rather than the attending veterinarian unless the owner had concerns that must be addressed by a licensee. In your September 11, 2007 letter to the Board, you advise that this is customary practice at the Hospital.

On July 24, 2007, Maggie returned to the Hospital for additional vaccinations. You were the veterinarian on duty that day. The booster vaccines were administered by technicians. Mr. Wolf contends that he expressed concerns to the technicians relative to Maggie's body temperature that, in his opinion, appeared elevated before the vaccines were administered. Mr. Wolf further maintains that this request was ignored by the technicians and that the dog's temperature was not taken or recorded. The medical records submitted in this matter do not contain any information relative to this issue. On July 27, 2007, Maggie presented at your hospital dead on arrival after playing outside. Her cause of death was determined to be heat stroke.

The Board has determined, following its review of the complaint and the other submitted documentation, that you engaged in professional misconduct, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), in that you failed to adequately and responsibly supervise your unlicensed technicians in this case. N.J.S.A. 45:16-8.1(6) authorizes veterinarians to utilize properly trained technicians as long as these persons are "under the responsible supervision and direction of a licensed veterinarian" in his/her practice. The record in this matter indicates that there was no communication or supervision between you and the technicians who administered the vaccines to Maggie during her visit on July 24th. The Board has concluded that in situations where biologicals and/or medications are to be administered to animals, there must be a direct veterinarian-client-patient relationship, rather than a delegation of veterinary services to unlicensed personnel.

At this juncture, the Board has determined that the above violation is sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that determination, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. Cease and desist from violating the mandates of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), by providing responsible and direct supervision to unlicensed personnel, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 45:16-8.1;
2. Pay a penalty in the aggregate amount of **\$2,500.00**, to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, for your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. In such event, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate disciplinary action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted, the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General Office for the initiation of the appropriate enforcement action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
LESLIE G. ARONSON
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **KARYN L. COLLIER, D.V.M.**, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of **\$2,500.00**, which is to be paid upon signing of this acknowledgment, for failing to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). I also agree to comply with all other requirements set forth in this settlement letter.


KARYN L. COLLIER, D.V.M.

DATED: 5/08/09